

Home Circle.

MA AND ME.

I may be partial, perhaps I be,
But there ain't no wife in this town I see
That is anything near to my Hepsy Ann.
She never changes, and never can.
She's heatin' the old brick oven now,
While I'm goin' on at the tail of the plow.
There's gingerbreads, apples and pies to bake,
And a loaf of brown bread, and a pan o' cake,
And beans, that for thirty long years and nine,
We've had every Saturday, rain or shine.

I may be partial, perhaps I be,
But never a daughter like mine I see,
With the rose in her cheek and the laugh in her
eye,
Both jolly and modest, both merry and shy,
With lips full of kisses—but stop right thar!
Them kisses is only for me and ma!
She'll wash an' iron an' laugh an' sing,
An' milk our Daisy, and—everything!
I tell you, our Kitty is good to see,
And a real treasure to ma and me!

I may be partial, perhaps I am,
But there ain't no boy that is just like Sam.
Sam's goin' to Congress some futer day;
A risin' man, so the papers say;
A lawyer, an' lucky as he can be—
Sends money often to ma and me.
He ain't ashamed of his origin,
Like some o' those monkeyish city men;
He stands right up for the crowds that toil;
An' he calls himself a son o' the soil.

I may be partial as most things go,
But there ain't no fruit like the fruit I grow,
The branches groan with them yellow pears,
And the red-cheeked apples they put on airs,
'Cause they're of a kind that is scarce an' high,
An' my trees never gin out and die.
Perhaps I'm old-fashioned; there be a few
Who think that trees and that cattle, too,
Needs jest as much tendin' as humans do.
I guess I'm partial, I know I be,
But a happier household you wouldn't see
Than Sam an' Kitty and ma and me.

—Mary A. Denison.

GOOD MANNERS IN THE HOME.

This subject was brought to the writer's mind a short time ago when over-hearing a mother remark, "I want my children to have good manners and to know how to behave themselves when away from home; I wish you would tell me some real good book on etiquette." If you wish your sons and daughters to have really good manners, don't let them see a book or paper on etiquette. The result of study from such a book tends to make one think more of himself than others, while true courtesy lies in thinking of others rather than of self.

If you give to your children books full of rules as to how to behave themselves, their minds will be so occupied with these rules, that they will think, upon entering

a room—"Did I bow gracefully and am I holding my elbows properly" while all the time they are forgetting to pick up the handkerchief, which some elderly lady has let fall.

A famous writer has well said, "The first and highest law of good manners is, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself' and the only real valuable book on courtesy is the Bible." A child's first teachers and examples of good manners should be the parents and the home, the first place where such manners are to be put in practice. If you want anything of your children or servants, do not, simply because you have the authority to command, give a bold order; but use the gentle "please," "I should like you to do this," "Oblige me with that," etc. These little every-day courtesies are called the small change of life; but we should be badly off in trade if we had no small change and must always deal with twenty-dollar bills; while the small change mounts up to the great sum in a life time. If parents have plenty of this small change of politeness on hand, it will be put in circulation in the family; the children will pay it out to each other, to servants, to playmates and to all around them.

Parents cannot be too particular in training children into good manners from their earliest years, for in the business of life nothing is hardly of more importance. A wealthy gentleman brought into his library a costly book. "My dear" said his wife, "you already had a copy of that work." "I knew I did," he replied, "but the manners of the lad who sold this were so elegant that it was a true pleasure to purchase it."

If we go into our large iron and steel mills, we see all is a molten mass before poured into molds to form the desired object. There is no waiting until the metal is half-hard before being put in the molds for then it will be full of flaws and roughness. So with a child—if we wish the heart and mind to have right manners, we must begin to mould with the young child and not wait until it is half-grown. Teach it to take gently what is offered it, not snatching and to return the look and word of thanks. Teach it to share its treasures; to lend its toys; to pick up what is dropped by

its elders; to say "please," "thank you"; to draw up an easy chair unasked for one who is tired; to bring the father's hat or slippers. I noticed Ned Burr upon one occasion; his mother came in from a chilly walk, just in time to take her place at the tea-table. Ned knew that her feet must be cold; he said nothing but went into the kitchen, took a hot brick from the back of the range, wrapped it in a paper and placed it under his mother's feet.

Such are the kind of generous little courtesies which make life go easy in families. Never allow your children to speak to or of any one by nick-name, unless it is some kindly, sportive term. I know boys who would as soon think of being profane as of calling their father "boss," "governor," or "old man," or their mother "old woman" or the "misses." Be particular to train your children to show good manners at home and then they will show them everywhere. Home is the place where true politeness tells.

M.

Meyersdale, Pa.

A WISE CHOICE.

A good minister, whom we will not name, while sitting at the dinner-table with his family, had these words said to him by his son, a lad of eleven years: "Father, I have been thinking, if I could have one single wish of mine, what I would choose."

"To give you a better chance," said the father, "suppose the allowance be increased to three wishes, what would they be? Be careful, Charley!"

He made his choice thoughtfully. First, of a good character; second, of good health; and third, of a good education.

His father suggested to him that fame, power, riches, and various other things are held in general esteem among mankind.

"I have thought of all that," said he; "but if I have a good conscience, and good health, and a good education I shall be able to earn all the money that shall be of any use to me, and everything else will come along in its right place."

A wise decision, indeed, for a lad of that age. Let our young readers think of it, and profit by it.

A MOMENT of time is a moment of mercy.—Nashville Advocate.